

WAS IT A SUCCESS OR WAS IT A FAILURE?

We are favored by the *Chicago Express* with advanced sheet of the following report which will appear in the next issue of that paper, of the proceedings of the conference which convened in Chicago on the 13th inst.

The meeting was called to order at about 10 o'clock a. m., on Nov. 13, and G. M. Miller, editor *Pacific Express*, of Portland, Oregon, elected chairman of the conference, and Alfred Clark of Chicago, secretary. Opening remarks were made by the chairman and others, after which the members of the various factions present were asked to rise, one faction at a time, and be counted. It was found that there were members of the Union Labor party, the United Labor party, Greenback party and Prohibition party present. There were also Americans, that is members of the American party, with Knights of Labor and a few other organizations. After the counting these various factions collected and chose committees to confer with each other and adopt a plan upon which to proceed in agitating the prospective union looking toward a convention in the near future, at which the final steps should be taken to formulate a platform, adopt a party name and launch in the field as a grand national reform party.

The conference requested the reading of the resolutions adopted by the committee slowly and in sections, which was complied with, Rev. Dr. Brooks acting as chairman of the committee. When it came to the plank mentioned above, the conference objected and a lively debate ensued. It was argued that no three persons present were capable of representing the views of the conference or of the various parties, and if they were even, the conference desired to know what the substance of the principles or issues to be set forth as their decision to the world in this address was to be. The committee argued that there was not time enough during the conference to prepare an address. Rev. Dr. Brooks (Prohibitionist) maintained that it would take a Daniel Webster to write such address in such a length of time and he, Daniel Webster himself, could not

Before the conference adjourned, however, a committee of five, consisting of E. Evans, W. W. Jones, Prof. L'Amoreaux, Elizabeth C. Patterson and Mr. Brown, was appointed to draft a programme for the following day, it being *fully* understood that the evening was to be given to the public.

This committee drafted an order of business or programme which was to the effect that the following morning the conference was to convene at 9:30 a. m., and its first business should be the settlement of the address to be issued to the people.

With the understanding, as announced from the chair, that there would be no business done in the evening session, the conference adjourned and many of the delegates went home and did not return until the morning of Nov. 14.

When the remaining members returned to the hall in the evening the entire programme as ordered by the committee on programme was set aside, the order of business taken up and the action of the committee on union, regarding the appointing of a committee on address, resumed and settled by adding two more names, after which Rev. Dr. Brooks made a motion to adjourn sine die, which was carried, and the conference was at an end.

The next day was devoted to speeches, chief of which was a long speech from E. Evans, of Tonawanda N. Y., consuming about two hours in delivery, and also of W. W. Jones. As the committee now stands, there are four Prohibitionists and one Greenbacker to draft an address to send out into the world as the voice of a conference which never had a voice in the matter and know no more of what the substance of that address will be than you, reader, though you may dwell in Florida or British Columbia. The dominant mind of the committee is E. Evans and, as announced in the *Express* before the conference, we do not concur with him at all on the money question nor other issues. There was no interchange of thought; this was rigidly shut back.² In fact about five people of that conference have taken action on about seventy-five people

What the address may contain we do not know, as before said, but of what it will not contain we feel very certain.

Of course the people are not bound to accept it if their judgment does not accept it, as the conference did not accept the proceedings of the few individuals who pushed, or railroaded this unparliamentary action through in the absence of a large portion of the most earnest and intelligent delegates of the body of the conference. But, it is the province of the Express which has so earnestly urged this conference, hoping that thereby a union of factions with lofty, pure and far reaching purposes might be accomplished, to tell its readers the exact truth.

Noble workers were here from various states, staunch old Greenbackers and Union Labor men, willing to concede almost anything in order to unite the reform elements of the country provided the new party would give us the one vital reform of the issuing of all money by the government directly to the people and no longer delegating this dangerous power into the hands of private citizens to be used to suit their selfish interests; but their voices were not heard.

Mr M. Wessenberg, editor of the Duluth Union Scandinavian (Norwegian paper), was present, he has been at work in his state educating his countrymen to a full understanding of the principles as set forth in the Union Labor platform, but said he "to come down here and be bagged by a few prohibitionists and this clique of money power in this manner and then peaceably fall into line? No! I refuse to do it. I shall go home and tell my people we were foiled, and I shall take up the fight just where I left off and as long as I have type I shall continue to send truth to the world; but I have fought for truth so long, as I have worked for an honest union so hard even so do I refuse to publish a lie, and I shall go home glad only that there is one other paper and that the *Express* which will also be brave enough to tell the truth to the people. There was no union of forces accomplished in Chicago, I repudiate the assumption of a dozen or so of men who so declare it."

It is safe to say not one third of the Prohibitionists approved of the action of the clique, and the Prohibitionists were in the majority, most of them living in Chicago, and the hard handed men who represent our labor army were deeply indignant. Ben Colvin stood up in the hall and charged them with duplicity, "saying you have put up a slate, you have acted unfairly, you have played a political trick upon us." Professor L'Amoreaux, author of the "American Paper Money" articles in the *Express*, charged them with the same thing, while other old line Greenbackers urged the ignoring of the action taken by the clique, and the forming of another committee and taking up of the work of the conference. There were not enough of our staunch men present however to take such steps, and the minority concluded to accept the situation in as good grace as possible, hoping and praying

It will be seen that though the conference at large did not approve the action taken by this committee, though they clamored for another committee or better work by the same, though they had no opportunity to suggest or dictate to the committee what the matter should be embraced in the address to be sent out to the people, still the convention to be called is not in their hands.

There is no hope for success at the ballot box until this union shall have been consummated—until the people move in a mass, and if we have lost the conference, we have not lost the convention. Let us work then for the union on a *true basis* at the convention which is to come, while we pray for the committee who have this important work of drafting an address and call to the people at large in their hand that they may be endowed with more than personal motives, more than human wisdom, while taking the important action they are about to take. Rev. Dr. Brooks might carry a conference of fifty men by his psychological powers and induce them to vote to adjourn *pro die* before the business of the conference was accomplished, but he cannot carry a convention of 700 or 800 men quite so easily.

So in conclusion let us not become discouraged. Let us look forward to the coming convention to see the realization of our hopes of union in a broad and far reaching platform upon which every loyal man and woman in the land can stand and not be crowded, or compelled to suppress the highest and holiest demands for a far reaching change in our national administration reaching to the bottom of all our evils, and cleansing the whole vile mass of political corruption to the very top.

Chicago, Ill. Nov. 18.—Sergeant at Arms Canaday of the United States senate arrived here to-day with attachments for Phil Armour, Nelson Morris and George Swift, citing them to appear in Washington before the senate dressed beef investigating committee. Mr. Armour accepted service of the document in his office this afternoon, but Messrs Morris and Swift could not be found to-day.

[illegible]